



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/twx/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/twx/index.html)

Shana Jones, Special Assistant

Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer

(210) 384-7440

December 5, 2003

**SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON  
IN PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 33-year-old Richard Fuentes was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison this morning for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Fred Biery ordered that Fuentes be placed under supervised release five years after completing his prison term.

On July 31, 2003, Fuentes pled guilty to the federal charge. On July 28, 2002, a San Antonio Police officer initiated a traffic stop for a speeding violation. The officer arrested Fuentes after determining Fuentes was wanted by authorities on numerous warrants. During an inventory search of the defendant's vehicle, officers recovered a small quantity of cocaine and a loaded Llama .380 caliber pistol which had been reported stolen out of San Marcos, Texas. Fuentes' criminal history reflects a 1991 conviction in Bexar County for burglary of a habitation and 1989 convictions in Bexar County for burglary of a building with intent to commit theft and indecency with a child.

This case resulted from an investigation conducted by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with officers from the San Antonio Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Gerry Matheny.

The prosecution of these cases is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

#####